



Fire Services Resource Mobilization

Emergency Management Division
Washington Military Department

Background

In 1992, following the Spokane "Firestorm" of October 1991, the Washington State Legislature directed the creation of the *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan*. The Plan is an appendix to ESF-4 (Firefighting) of the state *Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*. The initial formal adoption and approval of the Plan was completed in July 1994 in coordination with the state's fire service community and affected state agencies. The Plan, although having proved effective in meeting the operational and financial demands of numerous mobilizations, continues to be revised and refined in order to remain current and relevant. The latest revision of the Plan is dated May 2002.

Mutual Aid and Mobilization

The Plan provides a process to quickly notify, assemble, and deploy firefighters and firefighting equipment to local jurisdictions that have depleted all local and mutual aid resources in controlling an emergency event. Mutual aid agreements provide for rapid assistance from neighboring fire jurisdictions to meet the immediate resource requirements of an emergency event beyond those available from the local "host" jurisdiction. The *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan* is not a replacement for mutual aid. The Plan is also used when, in addition to local resources, the deployment of additional resources are required as determined by each region's approved Regional Fire Defense Plan.

The Plan

The *Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan* describes the regional and state organizations, the resources, and the process for the mobilization of firefighting resources in Washington State. The Plan is "all hazard" – its function is to mobilize fire service resources within Washington State to major fires or other disasters where local and mutual aid resources have been overwhelmed and additional fire service resources are needed for the protection of life and property.

Contact

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